

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reader appliance for reading identification connectors for airplane engines, said connector comprising a plurality of contacts connected to a decoding circuit, each contact corresponding to a binary digit, one or more of said binary digits corresponding to information relating to characteristics of the engine,  
5 the appliance including connection means suitable for receiving at least one identification connector, said connection means being connected to processor means  
10 responding to control members in order to display on a display device the information contained in the connector.
- 15 2. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the processor means include software means for decoding information relating to characteristics of the engine from the binary data read in the identification connector.
- 20 3. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the control members comprise at least one button for causing information encoded in the identification connector connected to the reader appliance to be displayed,  
25 successive items of information being displayed in response to successive presses on said button.
- 30 4. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the control members comprise software means enabling information to be displayed automatically.
- 35 5. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the identification connector is a multipin connector, and wherein the connection means of said appliance comprise at least one multipin connector suitable for receiving said identification connector.

6. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the connection means comprise at least one connector for receiving respectively at least one specific model of identification connector.

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7. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the processor means include software means for detecting the model of identification connector that is connected to the appliance.

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8. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the processor means include software means for testing the parity of the encoding circuit of the identification connector.

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9. An appliance according to claim 1, including at least one protection connector containing an autotest circuit.

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10. An appliance according to claim 9, wherein the processor means include software means for testing said reader appliance from the autotest circuit of the protection connector.

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11. An appliance according to claim 10, wherein the control members include at least one button for causing the result of the test of the reader appliance to be displayed.

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12. An appliance according to claim 10, wherein the control members include software means for automatically causing the result of the test of the reader appliance to be displayed.

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13. An appliance according to claim 1, including means for updating the processor means.

14. An appliance according to claim 1, including self-contained power supply means.